



COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR JUSTICE

Scott Harshbarger, Chairman  
John J. Larivee, President & CEO

April 6, 2018

The Honorable Paul Tonko, Member of Congress  
2463 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Medicaid Reentry Act – H.R. 4005**

Dear Congressman Tonko,

**Community Resources for Justice (CRJ)** is a non-profit agency that for 140 years has been providing services to society's most challenged citizens. Our work is focused in three areas: reentry services for men and women returning home after incarceration; community-based supports for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities; and policy, advocacy and technical support in criminal justice reform and police community relations.

**On behalf of (CRJ), our Board and staff and the thousands of individuals we serve, I urge you to support H.R. 4005 the Medicaid Reentry Act.**

CRJ operates Residential Reentry Centers under contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Manchester, NH; Pawtucket, RI; Albany, NY; and Boston, MA. We also serve State and County inmates in Boston. We serve nearly 1000 men and women each year in these programs. Over the last several years we have witnessed first-hand the devastating impact of the opioid crisis. ***In Massachusetts a recently released inmate is 120 time more likely to die of an overdose than anyone else.***

**H.R. 4005 – the Medicaid Reentry Act** would allow inmates to begin their treatment prior to release and transition seamlessly to treatment in the community. Coverage under Medicaid 30 days prior to release from Prison or Jail would eliminate the break in the delivery of these essential life – saving services.

We believe that passage of **HR 4005** will ensure continued treatment and dramatically reduce the death toll the opioid crisis has taken on our communities and **we ask your support.**

Thank you for your consideration. If I can be of any assistance I can be reached at [jjlarivee@crj.org](mailto:jjlarivee@crj.org) or 617-482-2520 x 2112.

Sincerely,

*John J. Larivee*

John J. Larivee  
President and CEO